

00793

1970/10/22

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

11/11/70
B. J. P.
C. J. P.
✓
INFORMATION
October 22, 1970

SECRET/NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS/PLUS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*
SUBJECT: Hanoi Postpones Private Meetings

The North Vietnamese have now replied to Ambassador Bruce's request for a private meeting. In their reply, they made the following points:

- Xuan Thuy agrees to meet with Ambassador Bruce.
- However, his schedule is now completely filled, and he will let us know when he can have a meeting.
- If we follow the same lines in private meetings as in the five points, Xuan Thuy "is afraid that no settlement can be reached."

Ambassador Bruce has said that he plans to wait to hear from the DRV regarding a meeting date. He intends to ignore Xuan Thuy's remarks about our negotiating position and your proposals.

There is little explanation why Hanoi is holding back on these meetings after having appeared very interested in talking to us privately. They may be doing it because they want to demonstrate their toughness. Or they may want to prevent us from being able to claim before the election that we are engaged in secret talks. In either case, I think Ambassador Bruce is right and we should wait for their next move.

SECRET/NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS/PLUS

*Don't press
Delay - be hard to
reach - don't agree
to a meeting too
soon*